



MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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MINUTES
of the
GOVERNING BOARD
of the
MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

December 7, 2005

I. Call to Order.

The special meeting of the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairperson Michael Berger, at 3:15 p.m. on December 7, 2005 at the Conejo Recreation and Park District, 403 West Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks.

II. Roll Call.

The roll was called and the following members were present: Ed Hayduk, George Lange, Vice Chair, and Michael Berger, Chair. Quorum present. The following member was present subsequent to roll call: Jerome C. Daniel.

Staff present: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer; Rorie Skei, Deputy Executive Officer; Walt Young, Chief Ranger and Chief of Operations; Paul Edelman, Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Tim Miller, Chief of Construction; Dan Tholund, Chief of Facilities and Maintenance; Jeff Maloney, Staff Counsel; Stephanie Landregan, Chief of Landscape Architecture; Jeff Jones, Chief of Finance, and David Wolfberg, Board Secretary.

III. Approval of Minutes.

No minutes were submitted for approval.

IV. Public testimony on all agenda items and public comment on matters not on the agenda.

The following member of the public addressed the Authority:

Arnie Karesh, member of the public, on matters not on the agenda.

Comments were made by the Executive Officer.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Karesh.

Comments were made by the Executive Officer and the Chair.

V. Reports from Staff:

- a. Legal;**
- b. Ranger Services;**
- c. Natural Resources and Planning;**
- d. Interpretation;**
- e. Developed Resources;**
- f. Construction;**
- g. Facilities and Maintenance;**
- h. Finance.**

The Authority received verbal reports from the Chief of Operations; the Director of Natural Resources and Planning; the Deputy Executive Officer, the Chief of Construction, the Chief of Facilities and Maintenance, and the Chief of Finance.

VI. Consent Calendar:

- a. Consideration of resolution extending contract with Joseph Caves and Associates for legal services.**
- b. Consideration of resolution authorizing Executive Officer to procure extraterritorial cellular, telephone, and other communication devices and/or services.**
- c. Consideration of resolution authorizing MRCA warrant disbursement for September, October and November 2005.**
- d. Consideration of resolution accepting offer to dedicate an open space easement: Whittaker/P5-83-633A, located near Fines Road and Cross Creek in the City of Malibu, Los Angeles County.**
- e. Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2, Area G, to acquire an approximately 2-acre conservation easement over a portion of APN 2285-012-019, 15999 High Knoll Road, Encino.**
- f. Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of either a fee simple or conservation/trail easement donation on all or a part of APN 5571-032-018 (2.12 acres) in the Nichols Canyon watershed, and acceptance of a maintenance endowment, City of Los Angeles.**

- g. Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of either a fee simple or conservation easement donation on all or a part of APN 2562-008-004 (3.5 acres) in the Verdugo Mountains, City of Los Angeles.**
- h. Consideration of resolution authorizing a) entering into an agreement with Caltrans and the California Department of Fish and Game to complete Valley Circle/State Route 101 Mitigation Planting Project pursuant to Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 5-386-92, and b) acceptance of funding, Calabasas Creek, City of Los Angeles.**
- i. Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the City of Los Angeles with a partner City agency for Proposition O project funds.**

The Chair announced that items IV(a), IV(b), IV(f), and IV(h) would be removed from the Consent Calendar.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution Nos. 05-119, 05-120, 05-121, 05-122, and 05-124 were unanimously adopted.

IV(a). Consideration of resolution extending contract with Joseph Caves and Associates for legal services.

Comments were made by the Executive Officer.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by the Executive Officer.

On motion of Mr. Hayduk, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-117 was unanimously adopted.

IV(b). Consideration of resolution authorizing Executive Officer to procure extraterritorial cellular, telephone, and other communication devices and/or services.

Comments were made by the Executive Officer.

On motion of Mr. Hayduk, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-118 was unanimously adopted.

IV(f). Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of either a fee simple or conservation/trail easement donation on all or a part of APN 5571-032-018 (2.12 acres) in the Nichols Canyon watershed, and acceptance of a maintenance endowment, City of Los Angeles.

Comments were made by Mr. Daniel.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by the Deputy Executive Officer.

On motion of Mr. Lange, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-121 was unanimously adopted.

IV(h). Consideration of resolution authorizing a) entering into an agreement with Caltrans and the California Department of Fish and Game to complete Valley Circle/State Route 101 Mitigation Planting Project pursuant to Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 5-386-92, and b) acceptance of funding, Calabasas Creek, City of Los Angeles.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by the Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

On motion of Mr. Lange, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-123 was unanimously adopted.

VII. Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of properties within Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreement Nos. 2273, 2361, and 2412 using funds from the Pardee-Fair Oaks mitigation fund and Deerlake Highlands Improvement Fund, and authorizing acceptance of funds from other public agencies to complete said transaction, unincorporated portions of Chatsworth, the upper Santa Clara River watershed, and the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Daniel.

Comments were made by the Board Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Hayduk, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-126 was adopted.

Mr. Daniel was noted as abstaining.

VIII. Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority for use of mitigation

funding to acquire properties within Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreement Nos. 2361 and 2412 in the Santa Clara River watershed.

On motion of Mr. Lange, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-127 was adopted.

Mr. Daniel was noted as abstaining.

IX. Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 40 funds for Project Planning and Design services.

On motion of Mr. Hayduk, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-128 was unanimously adopted.

X. Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of donations of either fee simple or conservation easement interests in APNs 5565-024-022, 023, 024, 036, 045, 044, and 048 and 5565-029-017 through -021 for habitat linkage purposes in Laurel Canyon, City of Los Angeles.

Comments were made by the Director of Natural Resources and Planning and Staff Counsel.

On motion of Mr. Lange, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-129 was unanimously adopted.

XI. Consideration of resolution authorizing amendment and revision of the MRCA's personnel policy to provide domestic partners the same benefits as spouses in compliance with the California Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003, Family Code Section 297 *et seq.*

Questions were propounded by Mr. Hayduk.

Comments were made by Staff Counsel.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Hayduk.

Comments were made by Staff Counsel.

On motion of Mr. Hayduk, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-130 was unanimously adopted.

XII. Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the County of Los Angeles to use Proposition A Big Five Excess Funds to improve Vista Hermosa Park, Los Angeles.

Comments were made by the Executive Officer.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Daniel.

Comments were made by the Chief of Landscape Architecture.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by the Executive Officer and the Chief of Landscape Architecture.

On motion of Mr. Lange, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-131 was unanimously adopted.

XIII. Consideration of resolution authorizing augmentation of a sole-source contract with Shilts Consultants, Inc. for data analysis and watershed management planning, Los Angeles County.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-132 was unanimously adopted.

Staff Counsel announced the need for an additional item to be considered by the Authority.

XIII(a). Consideration of resolution making the finding that pursuant to Government code Section 54954.2(b) there is a need to take immediate action on authorizing acceptance of a grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy for Lechuza Beach and agreeing to comply with the conditions precedent to disbursement in the grant agreement.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, the Authority found that there was need to take immediate action pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b).

Comments were made by the Chief of Landscape Architecture.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Daniel and the Chair.

Comments were made by the Chief of Landscape Architecture and the Executive Officer.

Questions were propounded by the Chair and Messrs. Lange and Daniel.

Comments were made by the Chief of Landscape Architecture.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by the Chief of Landscape Architecture.

On motion of Mr. Hayduk, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-132(a) was unanimously adopted.

XIV. Statements, questions, and directions to staff pursuant to Section 54954.2 of the Government Code.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Hayduk.

Comments were made by the Deputy Executive Officer.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by the Deputy Executive Officer.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by the Deputy Executive Officer.

Comments were made by Mr. Daniel, the Deputy Executive Officer, and the Executive Officer.

[Mr. Hayduk left the meeting at 4:39 p.m.]

XV. Closed Session.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority may hold a closed session on the following items pursuant to Government Code §§ 54956.8 and 54956.9. Confidential memoranda related to these items may be considered during such closed session discussions. Conference with legal counsel. Number of cases: 2. (1) *City of Malibu v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy*; and (2) *Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy et al.*

The Chair called a closed session at 4:40 p.m. pursuant to Section 54956.9 of the Government Code.

The Chair reconvened the open session at 5:05 p.m. and announced that direction was given to Counsel.

XVI. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chair announced that the next meeting would be held on January 11, 2005.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP

Michael Berger

Executive Officer

Chair